

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph:

[0041] FIG. 10 depicts another preferred embodiment of an upper electrode assembly including an alternative fastening arrangement. A fastener member 128 is received in an aperture 136 in the backing ring 22, and in an opening 132 in the top plate 24 (the backing plate 18, inner electrode member 12, and associated portion of the top plate 24 are not shown for simplicity). The fastener member 128 includes a head 129 and a shaft 130. The shaft 130 preferably includes external threads 131 at an upper portion 133. A fastener member 140, such as a threaded nut, engages the external threads 131 to secure the top plate 24 to the backing ring 22 and to the outer electrode member 14.